

# WAYS WE TALK ABOUT VERBS

## FRENCH 1

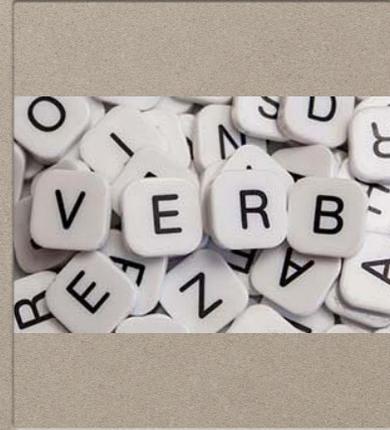
In **French** class it will be easier to refer to **verbs** a certain way, because it makes things easier to learn and discuss. Let's begin with the most basic forms to know.

- **The Infinitive Verb** is an **unconjugated form** which means it's not been changed to agree with the subject. It's the **idea** of an action, but because it's not tied to a subject, it's not active. When we translate an **Infinitive Verb** into **English**, it either has "to" in front of it, or it ends in "ing" like a gerund. Technically, it's **treated** like a **noun** or **modifier** until **conjugated**. This term applies to **ALL** unconjugated **French verbs**. All of them.

**jouer** = to play, playing

**être** = to be, being

**finir** = to finish, finishing



# WAYS WE TALK ABOUT VERBS

## FRENCH 1

Next, we need to talk about **TYPES** of Verbs. Whether **conjugated** or **infinitive**, they fall into these **2 Categories** and **1 Sub-Category**.

- **Regular Verbs** are verbs that **Follow the Rules** for conjugating in any verb group. You can use the **standard process of conjugation** by removing the ending & replacing it with the group-appropriate ending.
- **Irregular Verbs** are verbs that can range from "must be memorized for each subject" to "slightly different in this case" but unfortunately, the **most important ones MUST** be memorized.
- **Reflexive Verbs** happen with both **Regular** and **Irregular** verbs. They carry an **indirect object / reflexive pronoun** with them. They are verbs that the subject does for themselves, so the pronoun "reflects" back on the **SUBJECT**. You know one already; **s'appeler** = to call oneself.



# WAYS WE TALK ABOUT VERBS

## FRENCH 1

Now, we need to talk about **PLACEMENT of Verbs** with regards to **conjugation and translation**. Whether **conjugated or infinitive**, they each have to fall in a **very specific place** in the sentence.

- **PRIMARY Verbs** are the **FIRST verbs in the sentence**. They are **ALWAYS CONJUGATED** and tied to the **SUBJECT**. When using **Inversion** to ask questions, you attach it to the subject with a **hyphen (-)**. When you have a **Transitive Verb** (can't stand alone and make sense) like **aimer = to like**, it will be modified with another verb or verb phrase. **NEGATIVES surround the Primary Verb**. (Je **ne parle pas** avec Michel.) Primary and Main are **NOT** synonymous because sometimes the **FIRST** verb in a sentence is an **Auxiliary** or "Helping" verb like **have/ had**.
- **SECONDARY Verbs** are verbs that fall **AFTER** the **Primary verb and remain UNCONJUGATED**. They **act like noun/adjective/ adverbial modifiers** to support/explain **Transitive Verbs**. **Secondary verbs** come after the **negative phrase**, and may be attached to **nouns in phrases**.
  - **Auxiliary Verbs** are also called "**helping verbs**" and used in **compound tenses**. In **French**, these verbs will be **être or avoir**. We can also use other verbs like **aller**, but not for past tense.
  - **Main Verbs** are **what the subject does or is**, but in **Passive Voice or Compound Tenses**, they may **not** be the **Primary** verb in a sentence.

